

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 13-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1, 5 and 9 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the October 19 telephone interview. The following constitutes Applicants' record of the interview.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 13-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are amended to obviate this rejection.

With respect to claim 16 the terms "striped clad" is described in the specification at page 12, line 22 through page 13, line 9. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 13, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,747,783 to Bellamy et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,100,385 to Wutz and claims 5, 6, 7, 16, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bellamy in view of Wutz and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,925,394 to Hayashi et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,236,789 to Cowie et al. and claims 19 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bellamy, Wutz, Hayashi

and Cowie and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0024895A1 to Sakiyama et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

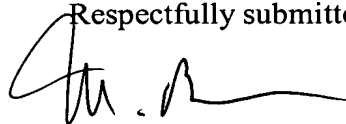
None of the applied references disclose a female or counterpart terminal portion having a conductive portion and a final contact portion as in amended claims 1, 5 and 9. Instead, Bellamy discloses at col. 4, lines 33-35 that the female portion of a connector plug is of a conventional construction. Cowie discloses a female portion with an inlay of polonium alloy 14 as the only contact portion.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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